

## NEWS AND GOSSIP OF THEATRES



LEO DITRICHSTEIN AND BOOTS WOOSTER IN "THE PURPLE MASK"

Before launching upon an engineering career, however, Mr. Eddinger senior advised his son to return to the stage for a brief period just to make sure that he was making no mistake in the choice of a life work. Accepting this advice as the better part of wisdom, "Wally" immediately secured an engagement with Robert Eddinger in "Soldiers of Fortune."

## WHAT'S IN A TITLE?

By EDWARD LOCKE.

THE old saying that "a rose by any other name would smell just as sweet," was surely never meant to apply to the selection of titles for theatrical productions. The difference is as follows: Whereas we know the rose before we know its name, we must know the name of a theatrical production before we know the production itself. In other words, names, when they are used in connection with the designation of certain folk or flowers, are used for designating purposes only. But with the play it is another story. In that instance the name is not only given for the purpose of distinction but for the purpose of attracting as well.

Titles mean infinitely more than the layman can imagine. Sometimes they spell success or defeat for a production. Some names have decided box office value; others serve as fences around the theatre entrance to keep likely patrons away. Authors will sometimes change the name of their play five or six times before they agree on a title.

The title of my recently produced comedy at the Harris, "The Dancer," was selected from among some seventy suggestions. It was Lee Shubert who made the final choice. A score of the titles endeavored to describe the play were, for instance, "The Temperamental Conflict," "Puritania and Bohemia," "Soul Differences," etc. But "The Dancer" was the only title that really suggested the character of the play. It was the only title, in fact, that passed my special test, consisting of my sending about a dozen of the best titles to several of my friends, who, in turn, gave me a brief account, in writing, of the mental images these titles create in their minds. The title that succeeds in creating the correct image

in the greatest number of minds, that name, I can assure myself, is the best of the lot. The original author must have had the same idea.

A title that has struck me as being particularly attractive is that selected by Cleve Kinkaid for his new play—"The Mood of the Moon." I understand that Mr. Kinkaid was not overenthusiastic about this title at first and that he considered changing it. But now that he has been reassured by a score of writers that he has given it one of the most "colorful" titles of the past few years; in fact, as catchy as "Common Clay," his former great success, Mr. Kinkaid has decided to let the first choice remain.

Another instance is the changing of the title of the Messers, Shubert's musical comedy, "Oh, What a Girl!" Originally called "Oh, Uncle," it was decided, about one day before the out of town premiere, to call the comedy "The Wrong Number." This name would have done anything but justice to the play, inasmuch as it is a girl and music comedy, and not a mystery or melodrama. Later the title was re-changed to "Oh, Uncle," but even this name was deemed inadvisable.

Many a success-worthy show has been spoiled by an unwise title selection. A title, no matter how catchy it may seem, can never assist a poor play to success. That is practically impossible. What a snappy title can do is to assist a worthy play to success.



HELEN NEWITT IN "THE WAYFARER"

As a bad title, though, can do more harm for a deserving play than an appropriate title can do good for a play of merit.

Norms—Mr. Locke seems complacently ignorant of the title of the original play by Lengyel from which "The

Dancer" was taken. It is "The Dancer," and under that name may now be seen at the Yiddish Theatre.

## BURTON HOLMES'S COMING SEASON.

The coming series of Burton Holmes Travelogues is unusually varied in its appeal and interest. It is not in the least to be considered a series of "War Pictures" or "War Talks." It is an up to date relation of Burton Holmes's experiences in Belgium, France, Alsace-Lorraine and the occupied Rhineland, this very last summer, and his pictures will show the countries and their peoples as the tourist of to-day will see them this coming year. Every soldier and his friends and relatives will naturally be absorbingly interested in taking an "Easy Chair Journey" to the various battlefields and devastated regions. Mr. Holmes will visit nearly all of them, but merely as a tourist would see them as one of many incidents of to-day's travel in Europe. Every business man will want to go to the newly opened markets of Europe to see what opportunities they offer for American trade, while the army of prospective tourists will find these Travelogues valuable in laying out their coming European visit.

Burton Holmes will give two courses in Brooklyn under the auspices of the Brooklyn Institute on Wednesday beginning January 7; one course on Thursday in Mechanics Hall, Worcester, beginning January 8; two in Boston on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons at Symphony Hall beginning January 9 and 10, and in New

York city, at Carnegie Hall, on Sunday evenings and Saturday afternoons, beginning January 11 and 12. These courses will consist of five subjects each and will cover five weeks.

Marshall Nollan has purchased the screen rights to "The River's End," James Oliver Curwood's story, which has just been published in book form following its appearance in *Good Housekeeping*. Work on the production of the film will be started immediately in accordance with a stipulation of the contract. This will necessitate the postponement of "The Eternal Three," another picture on which all advance preparations for production were complete.

**The Hip.**

Holiday attendance at the Hippodrome will this year be found to have exceeded in numbers that of any preceding year. Since all the seats have always been occupied at all performances in past seasons, it will take the artistical genius of *Marie Louchet* to work out just how this year happened to be so much greater than its predecessors.

"The River's End" is a story of the Northwest Mountie Police. In the east will be Marjorie Daw, Mahlon Hamilton, Lewis Stone and Wesley Barry.

**AMUSEMENTS.**

**B.F. KEITH'S PALACE**  
BROADWAY AND 47th STREET  
TWO HUNDRED CONCERTS SUNDAY, JAN. 4, 1920. BEGINNING MONDAY, JAN. 5th.

**DE LUXE ENGAGEMENT—SECOND RENAISSANCE WEEK.**  
Biggest Hit from Around Since Harry Lauder. World's Super-Clown, a Genius of Music, Mime, Song, Delightful Delivery. His Humor Has a Universal Appeal—therefore an Extended Engagement to Record-breaking Receipts.

**GROCK**  
The French Musical Clown, with His Clever Partner. The Brilliant Critics of the New York Newspapers All Grock as a Great Artist and review him as the greatest comedian of the day.

**THIRD SUCCESSFUL WEEK—The Inimitable Comedian.**  
**LEON ERROL**  
In His Comedy Scene entitled "THE GUEST."

**EXTRA ADDED FEATURE.**  
**HENRI SCOTT**  
The Famous American Bass-Baritone. Direct from Metropolitan Opera House.

**CLEVELAND BRONNER**  
In His New 11,000 Production.  
With the Famous Norwegian Beauty INGRID BOLFENG.

**EXTRA FEATURE—The Pin Siss Author-Comedian.**  
**JOE LAURIE, JR.** "WHAT'S CARE?"

**LOYAL DOGS MELNOTTEN & LEEDOM** KINOCRAMS

**FEATURE DE LUXE.**  
The Ideal of Ideals in London Music Halls.  
**ELLA SHIELDS**  
Immaculate English Male Characters.

**B.F. KEITH'S RIVERSIDE** B'WAY AS 98th St.  
Concerts Sunday, 2:15 & 8:15. Week of Jan. 5.

**IRENE FRANKLIN**  
The American Comedienne.  
In Original "Theater" Series.  
**TOTO! SHEILA TERRY & CO.**  
Ernestine—MYERS SWOR  
& NOON—Paisley BROS.  
NOLAN & NOLAN The Marlow

**ALLEN GEORGE**  
**BRONSON & CO. MacFARLANE**

**Manhattan OPERA HOUSE**  
34th St., NEAR 8th Avenue  
(Sole Management Morris Galt.)

**TO-NIGHT AT 8:15**  
B.F. KEITH'S  
Celebrated SUNDAY Concerts  
ALL STAR HEADLINES!  
Popular Prices, 25c to \$1.50.  
Leon Errol & Co., George MacFarlane, James Thornton, Swift & Kelly, Larry Kelly & Co., Beth Bell, MacFarlane & Palsco, Lola Girls, Co., Johnny Smith & Palsco.

**Capitol Symphony Orchestra**  
NATHANIEL FINSTON, Conductor

**MONSTER BILL MADE UP FROM THE BEST FEATURES OF THE FOREGOING PROGRAMME.**

**AMUSEMENTS.**

**CAPITOL**  
BROADWAY & 51st St. Phone CIOLE 5500  
SUBWAY STATION AT THE DOOR  
"World's Largest Theatre"  
EDWARD BOWES Managing Director

**HERE IS THE HAPPY NEW YEAR'S EVERY ONE WISHED YOU—AN EXHIBITION OF "VEHICLES OF ENTERTAINMENT" RIVALING THE AUTOMOBILE SHOW IN MAGNITUDE, AND EACH UNIT FITTING ON ALL EIGHT CYLINDERS**

**INITIAL PRESENTATION OF**  
**Ned Wayburn's Song Scenes**  
An Original Entertainment.  
with **PEARL REGAY**  
DONALD KERR  
LUCILLE CHALFONT  
FRANK JOHNSON  
**THE LE GROHS**  
LEE LEBLANC  
MYRA EVANS  
WHITE WAY TRIO  
NED WAYBURN'S BUCK DANCES  
CAPITOL CHORUS OF 30  
—AND—  
**EVAN BU'ROWS FONTAINE**  
THE DANCING VENUS

**CONTINUOUS FROM 1 P. M. TO NEARLY MIDNIGHT. COME AND LEAVE WHEN YOU LIKE.**

**AMUSEMENTS.**

**A NEW STAR IN THE SKY**  
**Alice Lake**  
in the Powerful Romantic Photoplay.  
"Should a Woman Tell?"  
First showing of this masterful, tense drama of a soul in doubt, wherein a New England conscience battles in a woman's soul for love.

**AMUSEMENTS.**

**"The Log of The U-35"**  
A Sensational Historical Record, Made in Form, Based in Germany by the Allies, and now Shown for the First Time  
HY MAYERS  
CAPITOL TRAVELAUGH  
of Times Square and "Uptown"  
NEWS—PRIZMA COLORLAND  
NOVELTY FILMS  
"Jimmie" AUBREY'S Latest Comedy, "DAMES AND DENTISTS"  
—AND—  
**Capitol Symphony Orchestra**  
NATHANIEL FINSTON, Conductor

**NEW YORK'S LEADING THEATRES AND SUCCESSES**

**EMPIRE** Broadway at 40th St.  
4TH MONTH!  
CHARLES FROHMAN Presents  
**ETHEL BARRYMORE**  
IN HER GREATEST TRIUMPH  
"Déclassée"  
By BOB AKINS  
"A gorgeous performance."—Tribune.

**LYCEUM THEATRE**  
Matinee Thursday and Saturday  
FOURTH CAPACITY MONTH  
"THE BEST ENTERTAINMENT OF THE SEASON."  
THE BEST OF THEATRE, Etc. World.  
DAVID BELASCO presents  
**INA CLAIRE** in  
"The Gold Diggers"  
Avery Hopwood's Sparkling Comedy.

**HUDSON**  
44th St. at Broadway  
Eves 8:20 Mats Wed & Sat 2:20  
BOOTH TARKINGTON'S  
New Comedy  
**Clarence**  
(Direction of George C. Tyler)  
"The best light comedy ever written by an American"  
Hollywood Brown in the Tribune.

**JOHN GOLDEN** presents  
**FRANK BACON** IN  
**LIGHTNIN**  
Gaiety, B'way & 46th St. Eves. 8:20. Mats. Wed. & Sat. 2:20.

**BELASCO** 44th Street near Broadway.  
Matinee Thursday and Saturday  
"EXQUISITE, POIGNANT, DELECTABLE"  
—Geraldine Farrar  
DAVID BELASCO Presents  
**LENORE ULRIC**  
in "The Son-Daughter"  
By EDWARD BOWES.

**COHAN & HARRIS** Theatre  
Eves 8:15 Matinee Wed & Sat 2:15  
BEGINNING  
**TOMORROW NIGHT**  
CURTAIN AT 8:15 SHARP  
COHAN & HARRIS Will Present  
**THE Acquittal**  
A new play by Rita Wolfman  
THE CAST  
Chrysalis Herie Wm. Harrison  
Ann Marie H. Hobbs  
Barbara Milton William Walcott  
Morgan Allen Franklin Hall  
Arthur V. Gibson William F. Hargre  
Norman Lane Edward Genn  
John Rowan Harold Gwynn

**LIBERTY** Theatre  
Eves 8:15 Mats Wed & Sat 2:15  
SOUVENIRS AT WED. & SAT. MATS.  
FZIEGELD JR. presents  
**BILLIE BURKE**  
HER GREATEST SUCCESS  
W. Somerset Maugham's Play  
**CAESAR'S WIFE**  
WITH  
NORMAN TREVOR  
"THE BEST ACTED PLAY IN NEW YORK"

**KNICKERBOCKER THEATRE**  
Eves 8:15 Mats Wed & Sat 2:15  
THE TIP-TOE SHOW!!!  
The GEORGE W. LEDEBER production  
**ANGEL FACE**  
VICTOR HERBERT'S  
SENSATIONAL  
MUSICAL  
COMEDY  
**FUN and MELODY!—YOUTH and BEAUTY!**

**HENRY MILLER'S THEATRE**  
124 West 43rd St. Tel. 7410 Bryant.  
Eves 8:20. Mats. Thurs. & Sat. 2:20  
"ELECTRIFYING EFFECT UPON THE AUDIENCE"  
—BURNS MANTLE, Etc. Mail  
**HENRY MILLER**  
AND  
**BLANCHE BATES**  
In James Forbes' New Play.  
"The Famous Mrs. Fair"  
"IF YOU MISS IT, YOU'LL BE SORRY"  
—ALAN DALE, American  
Direction A. L. Erlanger.

**CRITERION** B'way 44 St. Eves. 8:20  
Mats. Wed. & Sat. 2:20  
"The finest acting performance of Laurette Taylor's career; immeasurably the best play that Hartley Manners has written."  
—Burns Mantle, Etc. Mail.  
**Laurette Taylor**  
In a new play by J. HARTLEY MANNERS  
"One Night in Rome"

**NEW AMSTERDAM** Theatre  
Eves 8:15 Mats Wed & Sat 2:15  
THE POPULAR MUSICAL TRIUMPH OF THIS GENERATION!  
GILBERT MILLER'S PRODUCTION OF THE  
**MONSIEUR BEAUCAIRE**  
TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE—Times  
Management of A. L. ERLANGER  
AT NEW AMSTERDAM THEATRE 110  
ZIEGFELD NEW MIDNIGHT FROLIC

**LETTER FROM Uncle Joe**  
who ran on the 1860 Ticket with Abraham Lincoln  
"Dear Mr. Drinkwater,  
I enjoyed your 'Abraham Lincoln' because it presented the Lincoln of history, and Lincoln as I knew him I congratulate you on presenting on the stage such a character so true to history and making the simple greatness of one of the greatest men of all time the central feature of the play  
as ever with respect,  
J.G. CANNON"  
**CORT THEATRE**  
WEST 48th ST. Eves. 8:15  
Mats. Wed. & Sat. 2:15

**"A Brilliant Comedy with a Brilliant Score"—SUN**  
—DON'T MISS—  
**MISS MILLIONS**  
at the PUNCH & JUDY (on West 49th Street)  
THE MUSICAL COMEDY HIT!  
MATINEES FRI. (10:00) SAT.

**STANDARD** Broadway & 60th St.  
Eves. 8:20 Mats. Thurs. & Sat. 2:20 to 3:15  
MIMI AGUILA in "The Girl"  
MATINEES WEDNESDAY (10:00) and SATURDAY

**THE WHIRLWIND**  
Spectacular Melodramatic Success.

**81st Street**  
B.F. KEITH'S  
Concerts Sunday 2:15 & 8:15. Week of Jan. 5.

**James Thornton** "The Girls Club"  
The Youngest of Wm. B. Fyfe's "The Old Times."  
KANE & HERMAN  
**LILLIAN RECREDIS**  
**DURKIN & CO. MISS HALLA**  
**CAPTAIN BETTS SEALS**  
**DORIS KENYON**  
In a Delightful Pictorialization of Louis Joseph Vance's Famous Novel, "The Handbox."  
612 Street Central Park West

**Manhattan OPERA HOUSE**  
34th St., NEAR 8th Avenue  
(Sole Management Morris Galt.)

**TO-NIGHT AT 8:15**  
B.F. KEITH'S  
Celebrated SUNDAY Concerts  
ALL STAR HEADLINES!  
Popular Prices, 25c to \$1.50.  
Leon Errol & Co., George MacFarlane, James Thornton, Swift & Kelly, Larry Kelly & Co., Beth Bell, MacFarlane & Palsco, Lola Girls, Co., Johnny Smith & Palsco.

**TO-NIGHT AT 8:15**  
B.F. KEITH'S  
Celebrated SUNDAY Concerts  
BIGGEST BILL OF STARS IN TOWN  
Popular Prices, 25c to \$2.00.  
Leon Errol & Co., George MacFarlane, James Thornton, Swift & Kelly, Larry Kelly & Co., Beth Bell, MacFarlane & Palsco, Lola Girls, Co., Johnny Smith & Palsco.

**A NATIONAL MARK INSTITUTION**  
**STRAND**  
BROADWAY and 47th St. NEW YORK  
CONTINUOUS NOON 12:15 1 P.M.  
Direction JACK EATON.

**JOSEPH M. SCHENCK** presents  
**NORMA TALMADGE**  
In a pictorialization of the famous novel by Le Roy Scott  
"A DAUGHTER OF TWO WORLDS"  
This is Miss Talmadge's initial FIRST NATIONAL PICTURE  
**HAROLD LLOYD**  
In an Amazing New Comedy "Hand to Mouth."  
SOLOISTS—REVIEW—CARTOON.  
Exclusive Imperial German Navy Submarine Pictures.  
STRAND ORCHESTRA

**RIVOLI RIALTO**  
BROADWAY AT 49th ST. HUGO RIESENFELD, Director  
Beginning Today  
**NORMA TALMADGE** "SHE LOVES AND LIES" CHRISTIE COMEDY  
**DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS** "WHEN THE CLOUDS ROLL BY" HAROLD LLOYD COMEDY  
RIVOLI ORCHESTRA  
Frederic Stahlberg, Conducting.  
63RD ST. EAST OF B'WAY  
THIS APT., MARY PICKFORD. To-night, "The Valley of the Giants."

**COLUMBIA**  
THE NEW SHOW EVERY WEEK  
"Columbia Burlesque compares favorably with the best of musical shows anywhere."  
Two Big Shows Daily, Monday through Saturday, 8:00 and 10:00. Concerts Today in Headline Acts. All Seats Reserved. Conquering to-morrow Afternoon.  
Week Jan. 12—The Abe Reynolds Revue

**GIRLS OF THE USA**  
with LEW (Shimmy) HILTON  
Theatrical Party Stars, Tues. & Sat. 8:15.  
To-morrow—Alv. and Tuesday—Mat. 2:15.  
L'Esprit de la Saint Martin. All Seats Reserved. Tickets 10c, 25c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00.  
L'Esprit de la Saint Martin. All Seats Reserved. Tickets 10c, 25c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00.

**MADISON SQ. GARDEN**  
Sensational Production that even stirred New York  
**WAXER**  
Cast of 1,000 headed by  
WALTER HAMPTON  
and BLANCHETTE YURKA  
Eves. 8:15. Seats now on sale for all performances. Prices \$2.50, \$2.00, \$1.50, \$1.00, 50c.  
MATINEE SATURDAY

**LEWIS' New York Theatre & Roof**  
East 14th St. at 11 P. M. Roof to 1 A. M.  
MARY PICKFORD. Heart of the Hills.  
L'Esprit de la Saint Martin. All Seats Reserved. Tickets 10c, 25c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00.

**Loew's American Roof** 8 W. 9th St.  
BEGINNING TOMORROW (MON.) EVE.  
MAX LINDER'S "The Girl in the Red Velvet Robe."  
TRAM MAY & CO. EAKEN & ALL SEATS RESERVED. No. 100. Big Acts. Reserved



FRANCES LARRIMORE IN "SCANDAL"

Switzerland as a contortionist at the age of seven. There were nine boys learning the tricks of the ring. He was one of them, and in order to keep ahead of the others he was often up at 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning rehearsing, he says, "a little bit of everything," and he would afterward creep back to bed and pretend when he was called that he had been asleep all night.

"Though you can learn most things," he said, "you cannot learn clowning. To be successful you must be a born clown. It is no use for a would-be comedian to ask if he can learn to be

**In Brooklyn.**

Raymond Crane is the leading comedian in "Going Up," which Cohan & Harris will send to the Montauk Theatre to-morrow night for a week's stay.

Henry Shubert will do all he can to mystify the patrons of the Majestic Theatre this week by sending his company there to play "The Crimson Alibi" with all the fine actors from his New York theatre.

Lew Fields and his company will be seen this week in "A Lonely Romeo" at the Crescent Theatre. He has the same company with him that was seen in the Shubert Theatre her.

Lively, funny and tuneful burlesque with beauty on the side will be seen at the Star Theatre this week, with wrestling later in the week under the direction of Gus Bothner.

**WALLACE EDDINGER**, hero of "Wedding Bells," Salisbury Field's delightfully human and humorous comedy which the Selwyns are presenting in the Harris Theatre, is well known to two generations of playgoers, not because of his great number of years (he is still on the sunny side of 30), but rather because he began his professional career when he was knee high to a grasshopper.

Mr. Eddinger hails from Albany, a city to which he facetiously alludes as one which he "has made famous." The son of Lawrence Eddinger, little "Wally" felt quite at home in a theatrical atmosphere even before he was cast at the tender age of six summers to a child role in association with Charles T. Ellis. A year later he achieved a real triumph in the spectacular production of "The Roubidoux," appearing throughout its run at the Boston Theatre, following which engagement he created the title part of "Little Lord Fauntleroy."

Although an actor himself with a dominating love of the theatre, the boy's father was wise in his decision to equip the lad for life with a broader education than he was at that time acquiring through private tutors, and through it to give him a fairer chance to decide whether or not the stage should be his lifelong profession. So it came about that Mr. Eddinger did not again set foot upon the stage until eight years had passed.

In the interim he had studied mining engineering preparatory to earning his living through that profes-